

## **Advisory Committee on Trees - November 20, 2018**

Call to order 7 PM

Present: Brian Townsend (staff liaison and Associate Director Public Works and Parks).

Charles Jackman (chair), Robert Trumbule (member), Ethel Dutky (recorder)

September minutes approved with corrections

Old Business

### **1 -Fall Fest at Schrom Hills on October 20, 2 – 5 PM**

This event was a big success. Many families attended, and the parking lots were full as were the street shoulders for some distance on both sides of the entrance. Brian prepared a walking tour of significant trees in Schrom Hills. We envision preparing a self-guided tree tour based on this handout which we used to guide the waking tree tour. Brian, Charles and Ethel led the tour and answered questions. The tour ran from 3 to about 4:30PM. About 12 citizens attended. Due to the odd, wet summer, fall color had not developed on most of the trees. The exception was the flowering dogwoods. One unusual thing we noticed was development of large “witches brooms” on pines located near the top of the tree. These are clusters of shoots. We did not know the cause of these unusual growths, but think they may be due to the unusual summer weather.

### **2 – Trees planted in spring, 2018 at Springhill Recreation Center.**

Brian reported that nearly all the trees planted this spring at Springhill Lake Recreation center have died, probably due to the heavy clay soil and the unusual large amount of rain, Flooded soil has very little oxygen, and the result is root suffocation. The species which survived on this site was the sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*).

### **3 – In-house training for Advisory Committee/Board chairs and City staff regarding the Maryland Open Meetings Act on October 18.**

Charles attended this meeting along with several other chairs and City staff. The major topic was a review of the Maryland Open Meetings Act (OMA). The rules and regulations of the OMA were discussed in detail by two experts familiar with OMA. The purpose of OMA is to ensure that all official meetings are accessible to the public, open and transparent. ACT is abiding by these rules through timely posting of approved minutes, announcement of ACT meetings in advance and notification in advance of the agenda.

Charles also took the Maryland on-line class training and now has a Certificate of Completion for the Maryland OMA dated October 29, 2018.

There will be no ACT meeting in December.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 7PM at Public Works

Submitted by Ethel Dutky

Adjourn at 8:45 PM.